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Security Council

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Letter dated 23 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to forward to the Security Council Rwanda's first reaction to the letter dated 10 November 2001 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council transmitting the addendum to the report of the Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2001/1072).

The attached communiqué has been signed by André Bumaya, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Rwanda.

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dr. Anastase **Gasana**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 23 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Government of the Republic of Rwanda has received a copy of the letter dated 10 November 2001 from the United Nations Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council transmitting the addendum to the report of the Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2001/1072).

The Government of Rwanda welcomes the Panel's acknowledgement of the validity of the security reasons for its forces' operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Government of Rwanda would like to restate that there is no structured involvement whatsoever of its armed forces into commercial activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Indeed, the specific allegation against the Rwandan Patriotic Army is inconsistent with the main findings, conclusions and recommendations of the report.

The Government of Rwanda agrees with the Panel that in the letter and spirit of the Lusaka Agreement, signed by all parties to the conflict, State institutions should be restored throughout the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This should be achieved through the implementation of the Agreement, particularly by concluding the inter-Congolese dialogue without further delay. The Congolese parties should be encouraged to deal with this issue with courage and dedication.

The Government of Rwanda also agrees with the Panel that negative forces operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo should be disarmed and repatriated as soon as possible in order to put an end to insecurity in the region and the chaos in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Rwanda is committed to the full implementation of the Lusaka Agreement and will continue to support the efforts of the United Nations in this regard.

A detailed reaction to the report will be made available shortly.

(*Signed*) André **Bumaya**
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Rwanda

Kigali, 22 November 2001